

Message Text

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ACTION OES-07

INFO OCT-01 ARA-10 EUR-12 EA-10 ISO-00 ACDA-12 AGRE-00

AID-05 CEA-01 CEQ-01 CG-00 CIAE-00 COME-00

DLOS-09 DODE-00 DOTE-00 EB-08 EPA-01 SOE-02

DOE-11 FMC-01 TRSE-00 H-01 INR-07 INT-05 IO-13

JUSE-00 L-03 NSAE-00 NSC-05 NSF-01 OMB-01 PA-01

PM-05 PRS-01 SP-02 SS-15 USIA-06 /157 W

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TO SECSTATE WASHDC 6775

INFO AMEMBASSY BUENOS AIRES

AMEMBASSY CANBERRA

AMEMBASSY LONDON

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E. O. 11652: N/A

TAGS: EFIS, XV, UR

SUBJECT: SOVIET ANTARCTIC FISHING: ANTARCTIC TREATY

REFS: A. 77 STATE 304164, B. 77 LONDON 16817,
C. 77 MOSCOW 18590, D. 77 MOSCOW 3413

1. ON JANUARY 10 SCICOUNS MET WITH YEGENIY G. TOLSTIKOV, DEPUTY CHAIRMAN OF THE HYDROMETEROROLGICAL SERVICE, WHO SUPERVISES THE ARCTIC/ANTARCTIC RESEARCH INSTITUTE IN LENINGRAD. SCICOUNS RAISED QUESTIONS IN REF A CONCERNING SOVIET FISHERY EFFORTS IN THE ANTARCTIC, NOTING THAT WE HAD ALREADY REQUESTED THIS INFORMATION FROM THE MINISTRY OF FISHERIES, EHICH HAD PROMISED US TO GIVE US SOME DATA BUT SO FAR HAS NOT DONE SO. TOLSTIKOV REPLIED THAT HE WAS NOT DIRECTLY CONCERNED WITH FISHERIES MATTERS, BUT NOTED THAT THE SOVIET UNION IS CURRENTLY CONDUCTING EXTENSIVE SCIENTIFIC

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RESEARCH INTO KRILL AND OTHER MARINE LIVING RESOURCES OF THE ANTARCTIC. (NOTE: SOVIETS ARE OBVIOUSLY HARVESTING SOME KRILL BECAUSE WE HAVE SEEN KRILL PRODUCTS IN MOSCOW STORES, INCLUDING KRILL-FLAVORED CHEESE.) TOLSTIKOV STRESSED THAT THE USSR IS PREPARED TO DISCUSS A CONVENTION ON MARINE LIVING RESOURCES THIS YEAR. TOLSTIKOV STATED HIS

BELIEF THAT SUFFICIENT RESERVES OF KRILL EXIST TO MAKE THE ESTABLISHMENT OF QUOTAS PROBABLY UNNECESSARY NOW, ALTHOUGH IT MIGHT BE NECESSARY TO ESTABLISH QUOTAS FOR CERTAIN FISH SPECIES IN THE AREA. ACCORDING TO TOKSTIKOV, THE USSR WOULD NOT BE OPPOSED TO ESTABLISHING QUOTAS FOR KRILL AT SOME LATER DATE, SHOULD THIS BECOME NECESSARY.

2. COMMENTING THAT HE WANTED TO MOVE FROM AN AREA WHERE THE US AND THE USSR HAD CERTAIN DISAGREEMENTS TO AN AREA WHERE THEIR POSITIONS WERE MORE IN ACCORD, TOLSTIKOV STATED THAT HE HAD HEARD "RUMORS" THAT ARGENTINA PLANNED TO ESTABLISH A 200 MILE ECONOMIC ZONE AROUND THE COASTAL PORTIONS OF THE ANTARCTIC OVER WHICH IT CLAIMS SPECIAL RIGHTS. MFA REP (GALITSYN) PARTICIPATING IN DISCUSSION INTERJECTED THAT ARGENTINES WANTED TO KEEP LIVING RESOURCES WITHIN THE PUTATIVE ZONE FOR THEMSELVES WHILE OPENING UP THE MINERAL RESOURCES FOR EXPLOITATION BY "AMERICAN MONOPOLIES." SCICOUNS REPLIED THAT HE HAD NO INFORMATION ABOUT SUCH TERRITORIAL INTENTIONS ON THE PART OF ARGENTINA OR ANY OTHER COUNTRY. IN GENERAL, TOLSTIKOV STATED THAT SOVIETS BELIEVE THE US IS PUSHING THE MINERAL RESOURCES ISSUE TOO FAST, IN SPITE OF THE SERIOUS ENVIRONMENTAL DANGERS TO THE ANTARCTIC WHICH COULD BE CAUSED BY OVER RAPID EXPLOITATION. LIMITED OFFICIAL USE

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HE CLAIMED THAT US POSITION WAS INFLUENCED BY COMMERCIAL INTERESTS, ALTHOUGH HE ACKNOWLEDGED THAT US SCIENTISTS WERE WELL AWARE OF ENVIRONMENTAL CONCERNS IN THE ANTARCTIC. HOWEVER, TOLSTIKOV EMPHASIZED THAT THE SOVIETS HOPED TO CONTINUE INFORMAL CONTACTS WITH THE US ON ANTARCTIC MATTERS, IN SPITE OF DIFFERENCES IN THEIR POSITIONS ON CERTAIN MATTERS.

3. COMMENT: TOLSTIKOV'S VIEWS ON MARINE LIVING RESOURCES AND MINERALS EXPLOITATION ARE SIMILAR TO THOSE HE EXPRESSED TO SCICOUNS IN MARCH, 1977 REF D. IT APPEARS UNLIKELY THAT WE WILL OBTAIN MUCH INFORMATION FROM THE SOVIETS HERE CONCERNING THEIR FISHERY EFFORTS IN THE ANTARCTIC, IN VIEW OF UNWILLINGNESS TO DISCLOSE SUCH INFORMATION THEY DISPLAYED AT NINTH CONSULTATIVE MEETING IN LONDON REF B AS WELL AS THEIR FAILURE SO FAR TO ANSWER OUR REQUESTS FOR THE INFORMATION. WE HAVE CONTACTED MINISTRY OF FISHERIES SEVERAL TIMES SINCE WE MADE ORIGINAL REQUEST REF C, BUT ANSWER HAS ALWAYS BEEN THAT FORMAL SOVIET REPLY IS "UNDER CONSIDERATION." WE WOULD APPRECIATE REPLY TO REQUESTS PARA 2 OF REF C. IN ADDITION, WE WOULD

APPRECIATE ANY INFORMATION AVAILABLE CONCERNING
ALLEGED ARGENTINIAN INTENTIONS COVERING 200 MILE
ZONE IN ANTARCTIC.
MATLOCK

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